

# CLUN AND BISHOP'S CASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the year 1972

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Medical Officer of Health for the year 1972

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

### Medical Officer of Health

J. C. HINCHLIFFEE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

### **Public Health Inspectors**

H. Bramwell, M.A.P.H.I., Chief Inspector and Surveyor R. W. EASTON, M.A.P.H.I., Additional Inspector and Assistant Surveyor

Public Health Laboratory Service

Bacteriologist: Dr. C. A. Morris
Public Health Laboratory
Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury

### Clun and Bishop's Castle Rural District Council

THE PINES,

BISHOP'S CASTLE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF CLUN AND BISHOP'S CASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the report on the health of Clun and Bishop's Castle District in 1972.

Cancer deaths showed a drop from 23 to 17 of these 4 were of lung and bronchus now regarded as preventable. Overall there were 19 less deaths than the previous year.

Ischaemic heart disease contributed 44. At the present time work is being done with volunteer groups of sedentery workers to determine the relationship between heart disease and diet, cholesterol intake, animal fat intake and exercise.

It would seem that exercise is an important preventive of heart disease. This applies especially to the more energetic forms of exercise with raising of the heart rate.

It is nice to know that nobody was driven to suicide in 1972. However there are less dramatic ways of shortening ones life such as eating or drinking oneself to death.

One of my favourite minor diversions is counting the number of fatties in the social columns of the Shropshire Star. My estimate is that about half of the adult population is overweight and this agrees with the experience of workers at the Health Department Stand at the last West Midlands Show.

The profits of tobacco firms continue to spiral and there is a lasting need for health educators to battle against such harmful indulgencies as cigarette smoking. Their job of persuasion is made difficult when inclination overbears even intellectual conviction that smoking causes cancer.

As in previous years I have derived much pleasure from my visits to the Pines and wish to thank Mr. Bramwell and staff for all their help and co-operation throughout the year.

JOHN HINCHLIFFE.

### Section A

### VITAL STATISTICS

England and Wales		Clun and Bishop's Castle
14.8	Live Birth Rate	11.6
12	Stillbirth Rate	18
17	Infant Mortality Rate	28
12	Neonatal Mortality Rate	
22	Perinatal Mortality Rate	18
12.1	Death Rate	12.2

AREA (in acres in Estimated Popul	nclusive of water) LATION (Mid-1972)					133,469 9,260
		· · ·				
Births						
LIVE BIRTHS:	Legitimate					98
						9
	Total					107
ILLEGITIMATE I	LIVE BIRTH; as %	of Total	Live B	irths		8
LIVE BIRTH	RATE per 1,000 po	pulation	1:			
				• •		11.6
C D	Standardised					14.3
STILL BIRTHS:						2
	m 1					_
Carry Dinary D		 1			• •	2
TOTAL LIVE A	ATE per 1,000 tota  ID STILL BIRTHS			• •		18
TOTAL LIVE AN	ID STILL BIRTHS .			• •		109
Infant Deaths						
	ANTS UNDER 1 YEA	AR ·				
- D. C. T.	Total	uc.				3
	Rate per 1,000 li	ve birth	3	• •	• •	28
	Legitimate .	· C OII (ii)				3
	Rate per 1,000 le	gitimate	hirths	• •	• •	31
	Illegitimate .			• •	• •	
	Rate per 1,000 ill	legitima	te birth		• •	
DEATHS UNDER	4 WEEKS				• •	
	ORTALITY RATE pe	r 1.000	live birt	hs		
NEO-NATAL M		- 49000				
NEO-NATAL M DEATHS UNDER	1 11/					
Deaths under	1 Week .		1.000 1	ive birth		_
Deaths under Early Neo-Na	1 11/	LATE per	1,000 1	ive birth	ıs	_

Deaths Total Deaths from all causes Death Rate per 1,000 population		 0 0	113
Crude Standardised		 • •	12·2 9·0

The total number of the population in the district as at the 30th June 1972, is estimated by the Registrar-General as 9,260. This figure is 20 above the figure given for 1971.

The following are the estimates of the population for the district in 1972, and the figures for the years 1968, 1969 and 1970 are also given for comparison purposes.

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Estimated Population	9,990	9,880	9,800	9,240	9,260

### Section B

### PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

These Services are provided by the County Council under the authority of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

### Care of Mothers and Young Children

### (a) CHILD HEALTH CENTRES

Stone House, Bishop's Castle ... 2nd and 4th Fridays
In addition a Mobile Clinic now calls at Clun, Chirbury and Lydbury North.

### (b) FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

The Shrewsbury and District Branch of the Family Planning Association operate clinics in the County Council's Health Centre at Murivance, Shrewsbury, as follows: Mondays, 1.30 p.m.-3.30 p.m. (Bank Holidays excepted); 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays each month, 6.30 p.m.-7.30 p.m. (Bank Holidays excepted); 2nd Wednesday each month, 2.30 p.m.-3.30 p.m. (for Oral Contraceptive and Appointments); 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays each month, 11 a.m.-1.00 p.m. (for advise on Intra-Uterine devices, by appointment only).

### (c) Care of Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

As from the 1st April, 1970, Moral Welfare work on behalf of Hereford Diocesan Association was taken over by County Council Health Visitors.

The Lichfield Diocesan Association continues to be represented by Mrs. C. V. Jones, 25 Talbot Chambers, Market Street, Shrewsbury (Shrewsbury 4900).

The County Council gives substantial grants to two Mother and Baby Homes affiliated to the Lichfield Diocese, but within the County, to which cases from any County District may be admitted.

#### (d) DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

There are four distribution points in the area from which supplies of National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin A and D tablets) can be obtained These points have been set up at a variety of places, including Child Health Centres, Post Offices, local shops and private houses.

### Midwifery and Home Nursing

The County Council employs a total of three midwives in the district. Throughout the whole area they undertake district nursing as well as midwifery duties. In addition, two full-time District Nurses are employed.

### Health Visiting

Two full-time and one part-time Health Visitor are employed by the County Council in the district in addition to District Nurse-Midwives who are qualified Health Visitors and undertake this work as part of their duties.

#### **Ambulance Service**

The Central Ambulance Depot is at Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, and the telephone number is Shrewsbury 6331. A new full-time Ambulance Depot was opened at Craven Arms on 25th December, 1965, replacing the former Sub-Depots at Ludlow and Bishop's Castle. At the end of the year 1971 there were 19 ambulances at Shrewsbury and 5 dual purpose vehicles. 5 ambulances and 2 dual purpose vehicles were based at Craven Arms.

### Vaccination and Immunisation

Protection is offered, in particular to pre-school children, school children and, in special circumstances to others, against Smallpox, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Measles, and to children of thirteen years and over against Tuberculosis.

The immunisation procedure is carried out in many cases by General Medical Practitioners, and by School Medical Officers in Clinics and Schools.

Travellers to countries where Yellow fever is endemic are given protection, but a fee of £1.25 is charged for this service. Vaccination sessions, for which patients are given appointments, are held at the Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, on the first and third Mondays in the month at 3 p.m.

### Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

- (a) All home nurses and midwives hold a small supply of minor articles of nursing equipment such as hot water bottles, air rings, bed pans and feeding cups for loan to patients being nursed at home.
- (b) The treatment of Tuberculosis falls to Regional Hospital Boards to provide in the way of Sanatoria and Chest Clinics, but the preventive and after-care side of the work is shared between the Hospital Boards and Local Health Authorties. The County Council, for their share, provide open-air shelters where required. They also join with Regional Boards in making from time to time local arrangements for Chest Radiology Surveys, and through their Health Visitors undertake a considerable amount of follow-up work with patients. Extra nourishment may be provided in necessitous cases.
- (c) Arrangements are made under this section for the convalescence of persons not requiring special medical or nursing care.
- (d) Through their Mental Welfare Officers and Health Visitors, the County Council are responsible for the supervision in their own homes of mentally handicapped persons and also for helping general medical practitioners to secure hospital treatment for those persons who become mentally unbalanced.

### **Domestic Help**

The cases in the Clun and Bishop's Castle Rural District are served from the Ludlow Home Help Office, which is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

### Hospital Service

Complementary to the Health Services provided by the County Council under the provisions of Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946, Hospital and Specialist Services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board under the provisions of Part II of the Act.

The district is reasonably well supplied with hospitals under the Nos. 15 and 16 Hospital Management Committees, and by Consultants based on the principal Hospitals, but who hold Specialist Clinics at many of the smaller hospitals in the area.

For the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis, a Chest Clinic is held on the third Tuesday in each month at 11 a.m. at the Child Health Centre, Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow. Although this clinic is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, it is for convenience held at the County Council's Centre.

#### Venereal Diseases Clinic

This Clinic is held at 1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, and is provided by the Shrewsbury Group Hospital Management Committee as part of the hospital and specialist services. The Medical Officers in charge are Dr. J. P. G. Rogerson and Dr. E. M. McCarter. The Clinic also serves the neighbouring Counties of Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire.

The times of sessions at the Venereal Diseases Clinic are now as follows:

Males: Tuesdays and Fridays ... 6–8 p.m. Females: Mondays ... 3.30–5.30 p.m. Thursdays ... 5–7 p.m.

### **Laboratory Facilities**

The Public Health Laboratory at the Copthorne Hospital is extensively used for the bacteriological examination of water, milk and ice cream.

Chemical analyses of water samples and sewage effluents are made by the Public Analyst at Chester.

Good laboratory facilities are very necessary to the work of the Health Department, and I should like to express my thanks to Dr. C. A. Morris of the Shrewsbury Laboratory, and his staff for their assistance, in particular perhaps for their invaluable advise when some bacteriological or epidemiological problem arises.

### Section C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

### Water Supplies

The South Clun Comprehensive Scheme has been completed and some properties not previously having a satisfactory supply of wholesome water are now connected. The usual annual shortages at Wentnor, Lynch Gate and Edgton areas are now a thing of the past.

A significant point has been the large number of farmers who are taking advantage of the fact that the mains pass through their land and having field tanks installed.

There has also been the expected increase in applications to improve existing houses and to build new ones in villages such as Wentnor and the next problem to arise will be that of disposing of the foul drainage resulting. More small sewerage schemes will prove to be necessary.

The North Clun Comprehensive Scheme is the next in line and the need for it is becoming more evident each year, the sources supplying Chirbury, Marton and Bent Lont areas are becoming inadequate and require supplementing urgently as does the source at Worthen. A main from Westbury to Worthen is likely to be laid in advance of the main scheme to allow development in Worthen.

When this scheme is completed all the works proposed by this Council before the creation of the water board will have been carried out.

A total of 28 samples of water were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination.

The results were as follows.

Public Mains ... Satisfactory, 4; Unsatisfactory, Nil Private Mains ... Satisfactory, 4; Unsatisfactory, 16 Wells, Streams, Pumps, etc. Satisfactory, 2; Unsatisfactory, 2

Approximately 2,184 of the 3,676 houses in the district are now supplied from public mains and a further 394 are connected to private mains.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

The service has operated throughout the year quite satisfactorily within the limitations imposed by only having two vehicles and four men to cover such a large district with so scattered a population.

It has been agreed that an incentive bonus scheme be drawn up under which it is hoped to increase the frequency of collection in most of the villages from fortnightly to weekly. Details of the proposals are not yet to hand.

Tipping is still unsatisfactory but in April 1974 the disposal of refuse will become a County Council responsibility and some centralisation and improvement may result.

### Sewerage Schemes

The Chirbury scheme has been completed and connections to properties are now being made This allows a small unsatisfactory works to be abandoned, an old village sewer discharging crude sewage to the river to be used only for surface water and some properties to be improved which could not be drained satisfactorily in the past.

Work on both the Council's big schemes at Bedstone and Bucknell and at Brockton-Worthen has started and 1972 was therefore a year of excellent progress in the field of sewerage and sewage disposal.

There are still two relatively small schemes which the Council would like to carry out on public health grounds. These are at Newcastle and at Lydbury North.

The Severn River Authority reported on four samples of effluent two of which were satisfactory.

### **Improvement Grants**

Grant applications increased in number yet again and are now taking up a very large part of the time and staff available in the department. The work can be said to be well worthwhile and it is very gratifying to see the final outcome in the improved condition of the houses.

A total of 107 grants were approved 33 of which were standard grants.

### **Public Health Inspectors Visits**

Housing Inspections and Mainte	enance	 	395
Housing Applications		 • •	21
Nuisances		 	15
Water Supplies and Samples		 	51
Drainage Inspections		 	82
Refuse Collection and disposal		 	73
Moveable Dwellings	• •	 	38
Rodent Control		 	60
Offices, Shops and Railway Prei	nises		92
Meat and Food Inspections			212
Factories and Food Premises		 	98
Other Miscellaneous Visits		 • •	15

#### **Rodent Control**

There has still not been a satisfactory substitute poison discovered to replace Warfarin and the treatments still therefore take longer and are more complicated than they used to be. Apart from this the year has been a satisfactory one in this field.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies

The three private slaughterhouses have continued to operate and there has been 100% inspection of all carcases. Particulars are as follows:

Carcases Inspected and Condo	emned		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed			412 Nil	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	1,336 Nil	1,051 Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cy Whole carcases condemned Carcases of which some part or condemned		was	Nil 71	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	7 87	Nil 49
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned		was	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	. Nil Nil	Nil Nil	Nil Nil
Cysticerci Carcases of which some part or condemned	• •	was	Nil Nil Nil	Nil Nil Nil	Nil Nil Nil	Nil Nil Nil	Nil Nil Nil

### **UNSOUND FOOD**

The following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered by retailers and condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year.:

Peas 19 lbs; Fish 38 lbs; Fish Fingers 10 lbs; Potato Chips 37 lbs; Beef Burgers 7 lbs; Chicken 30 lbs; Ice Cream 4 lbs; Cream Cakes 11 lbs; Brussel Sprouts 4 lbs; Roast Pork 7 lbs.

This Council is not a Food and Drugs Authority and sampling under that Act is carried out by the Salop County Council who have kindly provided the following details:

Milk			
Pasteurised	 		2
Channel Islands Pasteurised	 		2
Untreated Farm Bottled	 		7
Sterilised	 	• •	2
Bulk untreated ex farm	 		32
			_
			45
			-

### Other Foods and Drugs

Coffee essence	 	 1	English Lamb			 1
Sausage Rolls	 	 1	Beef Sausage with	preser	vative	 1
Children's Aspirin			Sterilised Cream			 1
Cream Doughnuts	 	 1	Orange Drink Co	ncentra	te	 1
Hops	 	 1	Cough Mixture	• •		 1
Condensed Milk	 	 1	Pork Sausage wit	h preser	vative	 1
Gees Linctus	 	 1	Gin			 1
Liquid Fruit Pectin		 1	Whisky			 1
•						
						16

Five formal samples of Untreated Milk from one farm were found to contain penicillin to the extent of 0.25, 0.25, 0.1, 0.2, 0.25 I.U. per ml. Legal proceedings were instituted against B. J. Beddoes, Myndmill Farm, Plowden, who pleaded guilty and was fined £5 and ordered to pay costs of £30.

One formal sample of Untreated milk ex farm was found to contain penicillin to the extent of 0.2 I.U. per ml. Legal proceedings were instituted against R. W. Evans, The Green, Stiperstones who pleaded guilty and was fined £15 and ordered to pay costs of £11.

A formal sample of Hops was found to contain foreign matter which consisted of black decomposing vegetable matter. No further action was taken in this matter on the advice of the Clerk of the County Council. (Complaint by D. W. Allman, Brockton).

### Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Area) Order, 1960

	Samples Obtained	Phosphatase Test	Me	thylene Blue	Test
	Obtained	Passed	Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised	51 25 19	51 25	50 23 17	1 1	1 1 1
	95				

Warning letters were sent to the Dealers concerned in respect of the Methylene Blue failures above. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were informed of the Untreated Farm Bottled failure.

The following is a list of Food Premises in the district which are subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

Category	Ý		No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16	No. of Premises to which Regulation 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19
Cafes and Hotels			 33	33	33	33
Licensed Premises			 34	34	34	34
Grocers' Shops			 34	34	34	34
Greengrocers' Shops			 3	3	3	3
Butchers' Shops			 7	7	7	7
Bakehouses			 4	4	4	4
Sweet Confectionery			 18	14	14	14
Fishmongers' Shops		• •	 3	3	3	3
			136	132	132	132

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

H. BRAMWELL,

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

### Section D

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

	Di	sease	e			
Scarlet Fever						
Measles						7
Whooping Cough						4
Pneumonia						
Poliomyelitis:						
Paralytic						
Non-paralytic						_
Food Poisoning						5
Erysipelas						
Puerperal Pyrexia						_
Dysentery						_
Meningococcal Infe	ction					1
Ophthalmia Neonat Tuberculosis:	orum			• •	• •	
Pulmonary						1
Non-pulmonary						
Typhoid						_
Infective Hepatitis						1
Acute Encephalitis	• •					
			Total			19

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases during the year was 19—2 more than the number notified in the previous year.

No case of diphtheria was notified. Children can be immunised against diphtheria and poliomyelitis, either by the family doctors or at the schools or Infant Welfare Centres by the Medical Officers of the County Health Department. The last case of diphtheria notified was in the year 1949.

#### **TUBERCULOSIS**

The following were the numbers of notified cases of tuberculosis on the Register as at the 31st December, 1972:

Pulmonary		Non-Pu	Total		
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
4	5	3	0	7	5

#### **New Case Notified**

There was one new case of Pulmonary T.B.

#### CANCER

The total number of deaths from cancer, including leukaemia, in the district was 17. This gives a death rate of 1.84 per 1,000 of the population.

Of the total deaths from this disease, 4 were in the lungs or bronchus (all males).

### Appendix I

### CAUSES OF DEATH

Congenital Anomalies	2
Genito-Urinary System	1
Intestinal Obstruction	i
Peptic Ulcer	i
Influenza	3
Hypertensive Disease	1
Anaemias	i
Tuberculosis Other	i
Tuberculosis Respiratory	i
Malignant Neoplasm Oesophagus	i
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	i
Malignant Neoplasm Intestine	2
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus.	4
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	1
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	1
Malignant Neoplasm Prostate	2
Leukaemia	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	4
Diabetes Mellitus	4
Unspecified Neoplasms	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	1
Other Forms of Heart Disease	44
	5
Cerebrovascular Disease	12
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1
Pneumonia	5 2 2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1
All Other Accidents	3
Total, all Causes	113

The total number of deaths was 19 less than in the previous year, and the crude death-rate is 12.2 per 1,000 of the population.

The three chief causes of death were as in previous years: Heart and Circulatory diseases, Cerebro-Vascular diseases and Malignant diseases.

There was only one death from motor vehicle accidents and 3 deaths from other accidents.

It will be noticed also that there were no deaths from the infectious diseases (diphtheria, measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever), which used to be the cause of death among young children, and there have been no deaths from poliomyelitis.

### **Appendix II**

### FACTORIES ACT, 1961

### 1. Inspections

	NI	Number of		
Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	6	_	_
Local Authority	37	14	_	_
Authority		_	_	_
Total	44	20	_	_

### 2. Defects

Particulars				Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in
				Found	Remedied		By H.M. Inspector	which prosecu- tions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1)				_				_
Overcrowding (S.2)				_		_	_	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)				—		_	_	
				—		—	_	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6	)					—	_	_
				_		—	_	_
(a) Insufficient				_		—	—	
1 1 NT 1 C				_			_	-
						_	_	_
Other offences against the Act	(not		uding					
offences relating to Outwork)	• •		• •	_	_	_		_
Total		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •						

### 3. Outwork—Nil.

